



Jeffrey S. Lanning

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August 22, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE NOTICE

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket 10-90; *High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket 05-337; *Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries*, WC Docket 13-184; *Rural Call Completion*, WC Docket 13-39; *Technology Transitions Policy Task Force Seeks Comment on Potential Trials*, GN Docket 13-5; *Amendment of the Commission's Rules Related to Retransmission Consent*, MB Docket 10-71

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 20, 2013, representatives of companies in the Arkansas Telecommunications Association (ATA) met with Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel and her Confidential Assistant, Valery Galasso and discussed several issues of importance to ATA members. The ATA member representatives were Katie Burns (CenturyLink), Jeff Handley (TDS Telecom), Lisa Lake (AT&T), Ed Allis (Consultant to AT&T), Steven Sanders, Jr. (North Arkansas Telephone Co., Inc.), Steve Smith (North Arkansas Telephone Co., Inc.), Larry Clary (CT&T), Dean Gibson (Pinnacle Communications), Rick Reed (Prairie Grove Telephone Company), Cullen McCarty (Rice Belt Telephone Company), Bob Mouser (Ritter Communications Holdings, Inc.), Greg Ashcraft (South Arkansas Telephone Co., Inc.), Clint Highfill (Windstream), and Lang Zimmerman (Yelcot Telephone Company).

ATA member companies described their experience with rural broadband deployment and discussed some challenges including issues with access to rights of way and pole attachments, particularly when dealing with co-operatives and municipal utilities. They encouraged the Commission to consider carefully the impact of reforms to federal high-cost support mechanisms for rate-of-return companies, including regression analysis and rate-of-return re-prescription. ATA member companies also discussed E-rate modernization, expressing support for the Commission's goal of bringing high-speed broadband to schools. The discussion also covered rural call completion, with many ATA member companies expressing support for prompt Commission action to address problems and ensure reliable communications in rural areas. With respect to the IP Transition, ATA member companies agreed that the issue is among the most important facing the Commission and that regulators should proceed with caution as each provider works out how best to make the transition in a way that creates the most benefits for customers while preserving the traditional services that customers rely on. Finally, retransmission consent was discussed with ATA members explaining their need for reasonable boundaries to the negotiation process.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
August 22, 2013

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this notice is being filed in the above-referenced dockets. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Lanning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" and last name "Lanning" clearly distinguishable.

Jeffrey S. Lanning

Copy via email to:
Commissioner Rosenworcel
Valerie Galasso